(a) whether a large number of illegal slaughter houses are polluting water of various important rivers and drinking water in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether NHRC has also issued any orders in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by Government to check such activities of the slaughter houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) As reported by CPCB, the Ministry of Agriculture have conducted a survey to identify the registered and unregistered slaughter houses in the country. The local municipal and administrative authorities are to take action for stopping all unauthorised activities including slaughtering of animals.

The measures taken by the Central Government to check pollution of rivers in various parts of the country from slaughter houses include notification of effluent standards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are empowered to grant consent to slaughter houses for discharge of effluent/emission as per the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Central Pollution Control Board has published "Solid waste management in slaughter house" to guide the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees and slaughter houses in taking pollution control measures. Training and awareness programmes are organized for the officials of the State Governments and slaughter houses.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had made recommendations to the Uttar Pradesh Government on closure of the illegal abattoir in Meerut. Subsequently, on submission of the action plan by the State Government, to control air and water pollution, the NHRC further recommended, as an interim measure, setting up of a temporary abattoir with ETP and the animal remains be disposed of by a private rendering plant. The NHRC directed the Municipal Commissioner and District Magistrate, Meerut to ensure demolition of the unauthorised furnaces.

Use of crackers on Deepavali and Dussehra

†3422. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of firecrackers on Deepavali and Dussehra cause pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to check this pollution?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bursting of firecrackers on Deepavali and Dussehra causes air pollution and noise pollution. The air pollution is found to be associated with increase in levels of Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and fine dust in ambient air.

(c) The Government has taken various steps which include the following:

i. The noise standards for firecrackers have been notified and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) is implementing the said noise standards.

ii. PESO has come out with the environment friendly chemical compositions for four types of commonly used firecrackers and all licensed fireworks manufacturers in India have been directed by PESO to adhere to said chemical compositions.

iii. PESO undertakes random sampling and testing for sound levels of firecrackers at the manufacturing point to ensure the compliance of noise standards.

iv. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for Union Territories undertake special monitoring of ambient noise levels and air quality during Deepavali in select cities and towns across the country on the advise of the Central Government.

v. The CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs and select Departrment of Environment carryout press advertisements for public awareness about pollution due to firecrackers during festival season.

vi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered that there shall be complete ban on the bursting of sound emitting firecrackers between 10 pm and 6 am. The said orders are implemented by concerned Authorities under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 across the country.

Felling of trees due to widening of NH-7

3423. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale tree felling for widening of NH-7 from Seoni to Nagpur has resulted in cutting the wildlife corridor between Pench and Kanha and Panch and Nagzira-Navgaon;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the opposition to this proposal by the National Tiger Conservation Authority; and

(c) whether the approval of his Ministry was obtained by the National Highways Authority for felling these trees on this massive scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Felling of trees on the NH-7, close to the Pench Tiger Reserve was observed by the team of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) during their site